

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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"The Colors of Ink," an exhibition of rare Chinese ink paintings and related ceramics dating from the 10th to the 18th century, will open April 9, 1974, at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Drawn from the Cleveland Museum's own extensive collection of Chinese art, and assembled by Dr. Sherman E. Lee, Director of the Museum, the exhibition of 66 monochromatic paintings and ceramics reveals the richness of expression that can be achieved with the colors of black and white alone.

Chinese painting, with its roots in calligraphy, is before all else an imaginative record of the Chinese world -- one that has been distilled in black and white. While color was pursued by Chinese artists, and often exploited with great success, the real backbone of the Chinese painter's art was his evocative brush-work in black ink on a white ground, whether paper or silk.

Writing in the exhibition catalogue, Dr. Lee quotes the early Chinese historian of painting, Chang Yen-yuan's observation, "one can furnish (a painting) with all the five colors by. . .ink(alone)." And a variation of an old Buddhist theme, "One drop of ink contains a world, an infinity of time. . ."

Included in the exhibition are 19 black and white ceramics, and 47 paintings -- hanging scrolls, hand scrolls, and album paintings, as well as wonderful examples of calligraphy related to the paintings.

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Major works by the following important masters are contained in the exhibition: Ma Lin, Mu Ch'i, Chao Meng-fu, Wu Chen, Shen Chou, Wen Cheng-ming, Tung Ch'i-ch'ang, and Kung Hsien.

"The Colors of Ink" opened earlier this year (January 10) at the Asia House Gallery in New York to broad public and critical acclaim. It will remain on view in the Cleveland Museum April 9 through May 12, in the lower Oriental galleries. There is no admission charge.

A beautifully illustrated 140-page catalogue, authored by Dr. Lee, accompanies the exhibition.

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April 1, 1974

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